

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A heat-cured furan binder system comprising:

- (a) from ~~5 to 90~~ 5 to 50 parts by weight of a furan resin;
- (b) from ~~5 to 90~~ 5 to 50 parts by weight of furfuryl alcohol; and
- (c) from ~~1 to 90~~ 5 to 50 parts by weight of a ~~furan monomer or oligomer containing at least two terminal hydroxymethyl groups~~ dimethyolated furan selected from the group consisting of dimethyolated furan monomers, dimethyolated furan oligomers, and mixtures thereof,
- (d) from 1 to 10 parts by weight of polyvinyl acetate; and
- (e) from 1 to 10 parts by weight of an activator selected from the group consisting of resorcinol pitch, bisphenol A tar, and mixtures thereof,

wherein said parts by weight are based upon 100 parts of binder resin.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The binder of claim ~~3~~ 1, which further comprises a silane.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The binder of claim 6 4, which does not contain a polyol.

8. (currently amended) A foundry mix comprising in admixture:

- (a) a major amount of a foundry aggregate;
- (b) a catalytically effective amount of a salt of a strong inorganic or organic acid; and
- (c) a minor amount of a foundry binder of claims 1, ~~2, 3~~, 4, ~~5, 6~~, or 7.

9. (currently amended) The foundry mix of claim 8 wherein the amount of ~~latent~~ an acid curing catalyst is from 10 parts by weight to 40 parts by weight based upon 100 parts binder.

10. (original) A process for preparing a workable foundry shape comprising:

- A. forming a foundry mix of claim 9;
- B. shaping the foundry mix of A into a foundry shape;
- C. contacting the foundry shape of B with a source of heat at a temperature sufficient to cure said mix; and
- D. allowing the foundry shape to harden into a workable foundry shape.

11. (original) A foundry shape prepared in accordance with claim 10.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)